



Minnesota's 4th District **E-Report!**

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



OCTOBER 24, 2003

Hot News!

McCollum Travels to Iraq, Jordan and Turkey

Rep. Betty McCollum departed this week with a bipartisan delegation of House International Relations members to assess the status of security, political transition and U.S. reconstruction efforts in Iraq. The delegation includes International Relations Committee Ranking Member Tom Lantos (D-CA), along with Edward Royce (R-CA), Mark Green (R-WI) and Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA). In addition the delegation will address the situation with officials in neighboring Jordan and Turkey during the week-long trip.

McCollum is the only member of the delegation who voted against the Congressional resolution authorizing a pre-emptive war in Iraq. In addition, she opposed the president's recent \$87 billion dollar request for Iraq.

"I want to see the reality of the situation in Iraq, both the successes and the problems," said McCollum. "The questions I ask of U.S. officials governing Iraq will be tough and I expect answers, but what I see will tell the real story."

"I plan to ask our troops if their needs are being met since Congress provided the Pentagon \$63 billion only last April," said McCollum. "I want Coalition Provisional Authority officials to explain: What is our exit strategy to bring our troops home and transfer control of the country to the Iraqi people?"

McCollum is a member of the House International Relations Subcommittee on International Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Human Rights.



Rep. Betty McCollum addressed 1000 Minnesota National Guard Troops as they prepared for the first leg of a six-month NATO peacekeeping mission in Kosovo. McCollum told the soldiers that they will "create a brighter future for children, so those children can live in peace".

McCollum's Daily Diary from the Middle East

Rep. Betty McCollum will release a daily statement regarding her experiences in the Middle East. These statements will be available to view on Rep. McCollum's website at:

www.house.gov/mccollum/iraq_updates.html.

This week, McCollum met with His Royal Highness King Abdullah of Jordan to discuss the peace and stability in the Middle East. McCollum also met Darcy Neill, Country Director for the Peace Corps in Jordan to discuss plans to return volunteers to the region.

Contact Congresswoman Betty McCollum . . . www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html

Washington Office: 1029 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515 ♦ phone / (202) 225-6631 ♦ fax / (202) 225-1968

St. Paul Office: 165 Western Ave. N., #17, St. Paul, MN 55102 ♦ phone / (651) 224-9191 ♦ fax / (651) 224-3056

Prepared at government expense.